

# By the Way,

a newsletter for long-time friends of United Way

Spring 2013

## LUNCHING AND LEARNING HELPS YOU STEP INTO UNITED WAY PARTNER AGENCY WORK FOR AN HOUR

Community Missions Corporation recently opened its doors to a group of community advocates interested in learning more about local United Way agencies.

The first United Way Lunching and Learning of 2013 was hosted by Community Missions Corporation. Founded in 2004, Community Missions strives to eliminate

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## READ WITH CHILDREN THIS SUMMER

Volunteer to read with area elementary children this summer.

United Way Reading Adventure is calling for volunteers to read in July during one-hour-a-week sessions at Skaith, Lindbergh, Hosea, Coleman, and Mark Twain elementary schools.

United Way will again partner with the St. Joseph School District Explorer Kids Summer Program to match children in the Explorer's program with a reading volunteer.

Participating students will receive free books throughout the summer to encourage reading at home and to help build their home libraries.

United Way Reading Adventure is a program of United Way Profit In

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## MEET 2013 CAMPAIGN CHAIR

Patti Eiman, a long-time United Way supporter and volunteer, is serving as the 2013 United Way Campaign Chair.

Patti is the St. Joseph Area Manager at First American Title where she has worked for 20 years. She and her husband, Richard, live in Andrew County.

Patti has volunteered with United Way for over fifteen years.

She has helped with

Allocations, Profit In Education®, Unmet Needs Committee, and the Campaign. She says she was honored to be asked to chair the Campaign because she knows that the dollars raised are critical for life-changing services throughout the area.

Patti is looking forward to a few new ideas in the works (such as the United Way Home Run Club in partnership with the Mustangs) that she hopes will enhance Campaign enthusiasm.



*Patti Eiman, 2013 United Way Campaign Chair, has been working with volunteers and businesses since the beginning of the year.*

She is especially excited to be working with this year's dedicated team of energetic United Way Campaign volunteers. This year's Campaign volunteer training includes tours of some United Way Partner Agencies to allow volunteers to see the programs and people that Campaign dollars help.

Patti said, "I was raised to believe that neighbors help neighbors, and United Way helps

everyone in the Greater St. Joseph area do just that." She says that she and her husband passed along those values to their four children who are now area adults giving back to the community in different ways.

Patti encourages all United Way supporters, new and long-term, to gain more understanding of how United Way and United Way Partner Agencies build lives through education, health, and financial stability. She believes that the

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## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

May 30-Eat. Drink. LIVE UNITED. at Aspen Leaf Yogurt, CiCi's, and First Ward House

June 18-Lunching & Learning with St. Joseph Safety & Health Council

July-United Way Reading Adventure at 5 elementary schools

Aug. 2-3-STUFF THE BUS! at both local Wal-Mart locations

Sept. 5-Campaign Kickoff at Missouri Western Fulkerson Center

Sept. 7-Walk. Run. LIVE UNITED. 5K/10K at Missouri Western State University

Sept. 11- Lunching & Learning at Specialty Industries

\*More details and events at [stjosephunitedway.org](http://stjosephunitedway.org)

# ANNUAL MEETING HIGHLIGHTED MANY VOLUNTEERS AND SUPPORTERS

Over 200 community leaders attended United Way's Annual Meeting in February. Special award winners were announced. Retiring Board members were recognized. New Board members and officers were elected.

**The Spirit of Community Award** (honoring one exemplary business each year for outstanding community service and support of United Way) was received by Omnium, a Division of Winfield Solutions, LLC. The Omnium coordinating team strives to energize and educate employees about how their gifts to United Way are at work in the community. With over 82% participation, a per capita gift of \$315.59, and a dollar-for-dollar match from the company for all employee giving, Omnium sets an excellent, ongoing example for other workplaces that hold United Way Campaigns.

**The Outstanding Partner Award** (honoring one area business or organization each year that has shown an exceptional history of

partnership with United Way) was received by Hillyard Companies. Hillyard Companies is visible in every area of work at United Way, and members of the company also volunteer and serve in leadership roles at many other organizations throughout the community. In addition to sharing their time and talents, the company and employees generously support United Way's annual fundraising Campaign. Hillyard Companies sets an excellent example of how to LIVE UNITED for the Greater St. Joseph community.

**The Outstanding Volunteer Award** (honoring exemplary volunteers each year for outstanding volunteer service through United Way) was received by Karen Bartlett and George Clinton. George and Karen are an amazing pair of individuals who have worked together as a team at United Way since 2001. They have served in a multitude of roles, ranging from the Board of Directors, to the Allocations Committee to special committees. But their primary role at United Way has always been with the Campaign. They

have been known to invite people to give, advocate and volunteer at workplaces across the community at all hours and all days of the week. They each go above expectations and truly embody what it means to LIVE UNITED.

**Retiring United Way Board members** were: R. Todd Ehlert, Beery Johnson, Heather Shearin, and Bob Wollenman.

The following people were **elected to begin serving a first or second three-year term on the Board in 2013**: Eric Bradley, George Clinton, Jaime Dial, Jason Grayson, Steve Johnston, Mike Murphy, Scott Murphy, LaVell Rucker, Robert Vartabedian, and Julie Woods.

The 2013 **Board elected their Executive Committee**: Todd W. Meierhoffer, Chair; Seth Wright, Vice Chair; Brett Carolus, Secretary; and Jason Horn, Treasurer.

All 604 people who volunteered through United Way in 2012 were thanked at the Annual Meeting and are listed in the Annual Report that can be accessed at [stjosephunitedway.org](http://stjosephunitedway.org). ♦



Top photo: A few Hillyard Companies employees pose with Outstanding Partner Award.



Left photo: Two employees of Omnium accept United Way Spirit of Community Award.



Right photo: Outstanding Volunteer Award honors the work of Karen Bartlett and George Clinton.



*We all win when a child succeeds in school. Read to a child this summer!*

### ... (cont'd) **Reading Adventure**

Education that aims to help children maintain literacy skills during the summer when they are out of school.

Every week in July 2012, an average of 70 volunteers read with 200 children at four schools.

Individuals and organizations interested in volunteering to read may contact Jodi Bloemker at 364-2381 or [jodi.bloemker@stjosephunitedway.org](mailto:jodi.bloemker@stjosephunitedway.org). ♦



### ... (cont'd) **Lunching & Learning**

chronic homelessness in Northwest Missouri.

Jeanne Archer, Community Missions Corporation Associate Director for Program Compliance, informed the guests about the safe housing and support services provided to the residents of the two apartment buildings owned and managed by Community Missions. Juda House and St. Joseph's Haven shelter 34 men. The staff works to provide a comprehensive approach to support men whose addictions, mental health, and other barriers have resulted in ongoing homelessness. A tour of the two facilities followed lunch provided by Mr. Goodcents.

A second Lunching and Learning was held on May 15 at Family Guidance Center and included insight into services provided by Family Guidance and The CENTER, a Samaritan Center (two United Way Partner Agencies). Two additional Lunching and Learning opportunities will be provided during 2013 (see dates on front page). For more information, contact Glenda at 364-2381 or [glenda.hamilton@stjosephunitedway.org](mailto:glenda.hamilton@stjosephunitedway.org). ♦

### ... (cont'd) **Patti Eiman**

upcoming United Way Lunching and Learning (see dates and story on front page) events are great opportunities for United Way supporters.

Patti thanks everyone who gives, advocates, and volunteers through United Way. "Every one of you is essential in order for United Way to improve lives in Northwest Missouri and Northeast Kansas," she said. ♦

### ... (cont'd) **Leadership St. Joseph**

focused on early childhood education and various alternative education programs. Feedback from the group has been positive. Participants have gained new perspectives regarding how many people support the community and are involved in making St. Joseph a better place.

One participant noted, "It is incredible to actually see the network of support that exists!" Another said, "I'm impressed at how collaboratively our community's different educational programs work together. How great for our community!" ♦

*The first Lunching and Learning showed how contributions to United Way help Community Missions Corporation provide permanent housing and support services to chronically homeless men with disabilities.*



*United Way Success By 6 has been partnering with area schools to prepare children and families for kindergarten throughout the school year. This summer's United Way Kindergarten Jumpstart carries on that important work.*

## **FAMILIES WILL GET A JUMP-START FOR KINDERGARTEN**

United Way Kindergarten Jumpstart will be offered for the sixth summer this year.

Parents and their soon-to-be-kindergarteners have been invited to four meetings between summer school and the beginning of the school year. They will learn what children should know and be able to do when school starts this fall.

The meetings will be taught by volunteer St. Joseph School District teachers and will be held at public library locations throughout the city.

Families who attend all four free meetings will receive school supplies including a backpack for their child.

Research indicates that children who enter kindergarten with the foundation to learn are more likely to succeed and reach their full potential, so United Way Success By 6® works to foster and participate in area-wide partnerships that help prepare children for kindergarten. ♦

Todd W. Meierhoffer, with the support of his wife and two young sons, is serving as the 2013 United Way Board Chair.

Todd is a second generation Board Chair. His father, Michael, led the United Way Board in 1993.



## LEADERS TRAIN TO SERVE OUR COMMUNITY

The United Way Leadership St. Joseph Class of 2013 is off to a great start towards building their community leadership skills.

Dr. Tim Crowley led the two-day opening retreat in January and has continued to facilitate essential leadership development segments each month. February introduced the project process; potential projects were presented by several United Way funded agencies. March provided tours and information about several basic service-providing agencies. April



The 27 LSJ members represent a variety of organizations, but they share the common desire to improve skills and knowledge so they can be better community leaders.

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## YES, I'D LIKE TO GIVE A TRIBUTE GIFT

If you would like to celebrate the life of a family member or special friend through a memorial gift/honorarium to the United Way Endowment Fund, please complete this form and send it to Glenda Hamilton at United Way of Greater St. Joseph, P.O. Box 188, St. Joseph, MO 64502. Your gift will improve lives in our community.

Enclosed is my tribute gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Given by \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

In memory of \_\_\_\_\_

In honor of \_\_\_\_\_

Commemorating \_\_\_\_\_  
*(please indicate the birthday, anniversary, or other special occasion)*

Please send acknowledgement to \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

The person you are honoring, or the family of the person you are remembering, will be promptly notified of your gift without mentioning the amount. Your gift may also be listed in a United Way publication unless you indicate here that you wish to remain anonymous.

Please do not list my name.

Please make your check payable to United Way of Greater St. Joseph.  
Contributions are tax-deductible. Thank you!

### TRIBUTE GIFTS HONOR IN LASTING WAYS

The following Tribute Gifts have been gratefully received by United Way of Greater St. Joseph:

**In Honor of Bobbie Joe Violet-**  
Telia Upshaw

**In Memory of Kay Bocell-**  
Ellen Proter  
William Schreiber  
William Schreiber, Jr.

**In Memory of Rod Fletcher-**  
Cheryl and Jack Vavra

**In Memory of Frank Ward-**  
Steve and Peggy Dillon  
Family Investment Center  
Jan Mehl  
Jack and Linda Richie  
Randy and Vicki Rowland  
Brett and Kylee Strough  
Ruth White

**In Memory of Charlotte Wolverton-**  
Brett and Kylee Strough